

REMARKS

This Response is supplemental to the Response timely filed November 14, 2008 (“previously-filed Response”).

In the listing of Claims, indicated amendments to the claims correspond with amendments to the claims presented in the previously-filed Response. No further amendments to the claims are currently presented.

Thus, claims 2-11, and 13 remain pending for examination with claims 5 and 9 being independent claims.

Summary of Telephonic Interview with Examiner

Applicants thank USPTO Examiners H. Williams and M. Shabman for the courtesy of telephonic interview on December 2, 2008. Applicants, through its representative, Gregory Gerstenzang and Elias Domingo, discussed the status of the above-referenced application, as well as the non-final Office Action and each of the cited references, U.S. Patent No. 6,202,475 (Selbie) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0150807 (Bartels). Applicants presented distinguishing features of the claimed invention as recited in each of the pending claims. For example, Applicants noted that Selbie does not teach or suggest a method comprising comparing a measured reduction in pressure against a predetermined value. Applicants also noted that Bartels does not teach or suggest a method of backwashing that involves utilizing a fluid in a direction opposite of filtration.

Although no agreement was reached with respect to the claims, the Examiners acknowledged our arguments and agreed to consider the amended claims and the Remarks filed in the previously-filed Response.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Remarks, as well as the Amendments and Remarks presented in the previously filed Response, this application is in condition for allowance; a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this Supplemental Response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762 (reference no. M2019-7025US).

Respectfully submitted,
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